

Competitiveness may increase as well because of the trend in the community college system to offer more types of course for college transfer in comparison to the technical/industrial focus on which the system was founded. This shift in the community colleges will place additional demands on their libraries and learning resource centers as they seek to support an ever-widening variety of courses.

Among all the state-supported schools, the need continues to remedy institutional and library differences and deficiencies in library resources. While vigorous efforts have been made to improve libraries in the state university system, they must be continued so that each library is equipped to serve its campus's teaching and research needs. Learning resource centers' situations vary too, in part because community colleges receive local as well as state funds, and the extent of local support across the community college system varies greatly.

At the campus level, libraries and learning resources centers are challenged to cooperate or compete with media centers, computer centers and computer labs. In a few cases these operations have been merged, with the library as the parent organization. In the majority of cases, where actual merger will not take place, libraries must work with these other services more and more closely, as more and more information, research and publication are produced and available in computerized modes.

Computers are increasingly prominent in libraries' and learning resources centers' daily operations, for acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, online searching, etc. All the UNC system's libraries are members of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) and also have or will be getting local automated systems. The picture is less clear for the community college system. The N.C. Department of Community Colleges' Media Processing Services does cataloging via OCLC for most of the local libraries/learning resources centers for most of their acquisitions, but local automated systems are by and large, dependent on computers purchased for general college use. As is to be expected, there is even more variation among the private colleges and universities. Some use OCLC and have local automated systems as well, while other cannot even provide online access to information databases.